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SCIENCE :

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JOHN MICHELS, Editor.

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It appears to be a fact not generally known in the United States that a prize is annually offered by His Majesty, the King of the Belgians, amounting to the sum of twenty-five thousand francs, for the encouragement of intellectual effort.

The intentions of the King were made known by a decree dated the 14th of December, 1874, inviting the authors of all nations to compete, and placing the settlement of the award in the hands of a jury appointed by His Majesty, composed of seven members, three of whom must be Belgians, and four foreigners of different nationalities.

The prize for the year 1881 will be awarded "to the best work on the means of improving ports established on low and sandy coasts like those of Belgium."

The original time for sending in these essays, which may be either printed or in manuscript, was the 1st of January, now last past, but we are authorized in stating that the time has been extended to the 31st day of March, 1881.

Foreigners desiring to compete for this prize are required to send their works to the Minister of the Interior at Brussels; but Mr. John Eaton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, advises competitors in the United States to forward their articles through the Department of State at Washington.

We are informed that the manuscript work obtaining the prize must be published in the course of the year following that in which the prize shall have been awarded, but in what manner the publication shall be made is not stated in the document placed in our hands.

Engineers and scientific men who would avail themselves of this opportunity must act promptly, and we would advise such to apply directly to Mr. John Eaton, of the Bureau of Education, in regard to any further information required for facilitating their work.

CHIMPANZEES IN NEW YORK.

THE last of the Chimpanzees at the New York Aquarium died on the 2d of February, of a throat affection. It was a remarkably well developed specimen. Its principle dimensions were, height (when standing) from heel to vertex 33 inches, distance from coccyx to vertex 20½ inches. Length of foot 6½ inches. Length of hand exactly the same. Its weight was twenty-four pounds. The brain was obtained by Dr. Edward C. Spitzka, making the third brain of this species in his possession. New York has been comparatively rich in anthropoids during the past three years. At one time there were five Chimpanzees and one Orang-Outang on exhibition together. The former lived about nine months. Altogether there have been at different times nine Chimpanzees at the Aquarium. Of the first pair, "Nip" and "Tuck," the former died of a tubercular meningitis, the latter passed successfully through an attack of Enteritis and later of Diphtheria, to die at Coney Island. A comparatively large animal standing over 3½ feet high, died of neoplasia in the lung. A female of depraved propensities such as have not yet been noted in anthropoids (devouring her own excrement), and a little two year old, one of the finest and most active anthropoids yet kept in captivity, died of catarrhal affections contracted at the seaside Aquarium, whither supposed business interest had directed they should go. Two well-developed animals, aged over two years, were sold to the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens.

A single survivor remained at the Aquarium. This animal had been in excellent health for a year and grown considerably during that period. About two years ago a new specimen arrived which had been brought from Africa, after a very stormy voyage, in a sailing vessel; it looked shrivelled and shrunken, weighed nine pounds, and was not expected to live. Those who saw it remarked that it bore the same relation to the other that a starved inmate of a baby farm does to a healthy, well-nourished child. But after a year it had outstripped its comrade in growth, and altogether gained fifteen pounds weight in the two years of its life of captivity. There must be considerable disparity between individual anthropoid apes in a state of nature, and this observation seems to confirm it.

TRICHINÆ IN PORK.

Dr. Ed. W. Germer, Health officer, of Erie, Pa., sends to us a portion of trichinous pork, as a sample of meat which infected a family of seven persons with trichinosis. The pig in question was raised with another, both being fed with the same food and reared under the same conditions. The pigs were killed at the same time, and an examination by Dr. Germer showed that one of these pigs was infected with trichinæ while the other was free from the parasite.

The owner of the diseased pig, his wife and two children were all taken sick simultaneously, and were treated for typhoid fever. Later three persons visited the house and were all seized with the same symptoms. The attending physician attributed the trouble to a well which supplied the family water. The mystery was solved by Dr. Germer who made the discovery of trichinous pork, and under his treatment the patients recovered. Dr. Germer suggests the possibility that many cases of trichinosis occur which are treated for other diseases, and trusts the time is not distant when young physicians will purchase a microscope before buying a gold watch or a gold-headed cane. We have examined the sample of trichinous pork, and confirm Dr. Germer's report; stripping a portion of the sarcolemma from the muscle we found seven trichinæ in the field of the microscope, using a ¼th objective. The trichinæ were in a free condition without cysts, and very transparent; for this reason they could be seen only by making very thin sections,